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NMT 4

Letters to Dr. Guertner (Minister of Justice) and Dr. Lammers (Reich Chancellery) on the transfer of detained persons (in "security detention") to the concentration camps for work

Subject: Accommodation of persons in security detention.

08 August 1939

## AUTHORS

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## DEFENDANT

Georg Loerner

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## TRIAL ISSUES

Concentration camp system (administration, forced labor, abuse of inmates, secrecy)  
Forced labor in concentration camps and SS labor camps Administration & organization  
(all cases)

Pages 1 to 4 included

Copy of

Document NG-340  
Office of U.S. Chief of Counsel  
presented in case III of Military Tribunal III  
as Exhibit No. 257.

"For Press only"

The Reich Minister and Chief  
of the Reich Chancellery

Berlin W 8, 8 August 1939  
Vosstrasse 6

Rk. 21364 B

To the  
Reich Minister of Justice  
Dr. GUERTNER

Subject:- Accommodation of persons in security detention.  
Ref. my letter of 24 June 1939  
Rk 17778 B - III al 932/40 Ia 4535.

Dear Herr GUERTNER,

According to the letter as per enclosed photostat of the Chief of the Office of the Fuehrer of the NSDAP, dated 26 July of this year, the Fuehrer has meanwhile decreed that all dispensable persons held in security detention are to be made available to the Reichsfuehrer SS with immediate effect.

As you will see from the letter, the Chief of the Office of the Fuehrer of the NSDAP reported the matter personally to the Fuehrer. Therefore, to my regret, I was not able to keep the promise I made in my letter of 24 June to give you the opportunity of expressing your point of view prior to the Fuehrer's decision.

Heil Hitler!

Yours very truly

(signed) Dr. LAMMERS

No.  
III 151 1184 1 encl.



- 2 -

Rk 21364 B

Berlin W 8, 26 July 1939  
Vosstrasse 4  
Telephone local: 12 00 54  
long distance: 12 66 21  
S/Pue

To the  
Chief of the Reich Chancellery  
Reich Minister Dr. LAMMERS

in the Building

Subject: Persons held in Security Detention.

Dear Party Member Dr. LAMMERS,

The Reichsfuehrer SS requested the Reich Minister of Justice quite some time ago to make part of the persons held in security detention available to him for urgent work in the concentration camps. This became all the more urgent because, on the occasion of the Fuehrer's fiftieth birthday, a larger number of persons held in protective custody were released. The request made by the Reichsfuehrer-SS was turned down in the letter dated 14 July 1938, on the grounds that, in addition to work to cover the requirements of the penal institutions themselves, persons held in security detention were also doing work which must be considered urgent from the point of view of the Four Year Plan. As apposed to that it was ascertained on the occasion of an inspection of the penitentiary Brandenburg-Goehrden by the Chief of the Department for Pardons and Reprieves in the office of the Fuehrer, that at the present time a large number of the persons held in security detention are occupied painting cardboard soldiers, for the account of private firms. In view of the far more important and actually urgent work in the sense of the Four Year Plan, carried on for example by the inmates in the concentration camp Sachsenhausen and the annexed brickyard, the Fuehrer has decreed that all dispensable persons held in security detention are to be made available to the Reichsfuehrer SS with immediate effect.



- 3 -

In Spring, after an inspection of the concentration camp Sachsenhausen, at the request of the Reichsfuehrer SS, I supported his application to the Fuehrer and was ordered to ascertain in what manner persons held in security detention were at present occupied. Pursuant to this order I made the necessary investigations and also received a report on the subject from the Reich Minister of Justice, which reads as follows:

"The number of persons held in security detention amounts to 4303, according to the latest facts ascertained. Of these, 4096 persons in security detention are employed, i.e. 721 persons in security detention (16.8 %) on work for the requirements of the penal institutions themselves and the requirements of other agencies, and 3375 persons in security detention (78.4.%) on work within the scope of the Four Year Plan (including work for export and for war economy). The remainder of 207 persons held in security detention (4.8 %) was unemployed on the day when the check was made, due to sickness or because they were serving sentences of arrest."

There can be no doubt that in this instance the persons held in security detention, who are occupied on work on toys as already mentioned and are earning for the institution RM 1.20 to RM 1.80 per person per day, are classified under the heading "Urgent Four Year Plan Work".

Therefore, after I had presented the case to him at Obersalzberg, the Fuehrer made the above mentioned decision and already at the time of my first presentation of the case inclined to the opinion that persons held in security detention are to be classified under the heading of concentration camps and subordinated to the Reichsfuehrer SS.

I specifically refrained from any direct notification to the Reich Minister of Justice. Will you kindly forward the Fuehrer's decision to the Reich Minister of Justice.

- 20 -



- 4 -

I have informed the Reichsfuehrer SS of the Fuehrer's decision and of my letter to you.

Heil Hitler!

(signed) signature

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I herewith certify the above copy to be identical with the above mentioned document.

Nuernberg, 23 June 1947

(signature) Dr. Haensel  
(signed) Dr. Carl Haensel  
Counsel for the Defendant G. LOERNER